

CURA News / Update
(Sent to Members by Email May 4, 2020)

Hello Everyone,

On behalf of the CURA Executive Committee, we hope that you and your families are all healthy and staying safe in this age of COVID-19. Hopefully this terrible experience will be over soon and we can get back to our normal activities. Of course, our May Annual General Meeting (AGM) is cancelled; and we await the time when we can again get together safely. As is the new normal these days, you will be receiving information and updates online. This communication is in lieu of the AGM.

Most of our planned activities were scheduled before the lockdown and were very well attended and enjoyed:

1. Welcome Meeting: September 12
2. Marijuana plant (Tweed) Tour in Smiths Falls: October 10 – organized by Peter Fried
3. Dinner-with-Speaker: November 21 – Irwin Reichstein on Early 19th Century Photography
4. President's Holiday Reception: December 12 – hosted by President Bacon
5. Dinner-with-Speaker: March 11 – Andrew Brook and Peter Watson on "Time"
6. Pension Plan Update Presentation: March 12 – Betsy Springer
7. Isolation Begins: March 16

There are two items currently being worked on: CURA Survey for Retirees, and CURA Executive Committee elections.

- Survey: A CURA survey will be sent out electronically to Carleton retirees (not only CURA members) sometime around mid-summer. Thank you to Peter Watson and Wendy Watkins, the principal drafters, and also to all those who have given their input, assistance and advice.
- Elections: The 2-year term of the CURA Executive Committee members will be coming to an end August 31 (the CURA year runs from September 1 to August 31). A Nominations Committee has been formed, with David Holmes as the Chair and assisted by Elsie Clement and Peter Fried; and we thank all three for volunteering. You will be hearing from David closer to the time when we can hold an AGM.

Other Information:

- Fees for parking on campus have gone up for everyone. For CURA members, it is now \$6 (up from \$5). However, this is not an hourly rate for us; it is for the total time that we are attending a CURA-related activity, plus an hour before and after to allow for walking, etc.
- Carleton email for staff retirees is still a work in progress
- Paid-up CURA members for this term (2019/2020) is 68
- Irwin Reichstein, Treasurer, reported that our bank account balance as of March 31st is \$8508
- Proposal to have retiree representatives on the Pension and the CUPE2424 Committees is still being investigated
- CURAC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada) Update by Bob Morrison, our CURAC Rep:
 - The 2020 conference scheduled for this May at UBC has been postponed to 2022
 - The 2021 conference at McGill is on track – it coincides with the 200th anniversary of the founding of McGill

- The UPEI has been postponed from 2022 to 2023 to allow UBC to host it in 2022 and to coincide with the 150th anniversary of PEI joining confederation
- To summarize: 2020 no CURAC Conference, 2021 at McGill, 2022 at UBC (with Simon Fraser and U of Victoria) and 2023 at UPEI
- CURAC conferences are fun, sociable, and instructive, and you meet like-minded people from all over Canada; you should plan to go!
- Vibrant Voices has not been active recently, but is expected to gear up for the fall. It is a nonpartisan coalition of different organizations formed to influence the federal government on seniors' issues, notably pharmacare, income security, and a national seniors' strategy
- When possible, the next outing will be a tour of the newly renovated National Arts Centre – thank you Lynda Finn for suggesting and looking into this
- Please check out the CURA website at: <https://carleton.ca/cura/> , and the CURAC website at: <http://www.curac.ca/>

Regards everyone and best of health,
Susan Nesrallah
CURA President